



The Margaret Hagedorn Rose Garden

***B**eautiful, Versatile, Timeless*
The rose was designated the National Flower in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan after recommendation by the U.S. Congress. Present in gardens throughout history, roses have been grown for their medicinal qualities, religious symbolism, fragrance, and beauty.

Of near universal appeal, roses are mentioned in historical records from Chinese, Persian, Greek, Roman, and Aztec societies. Their broad range of fragrance, form, and color has long drawn the interest of plant breeders.

JOSEPHINE'S LEGACY

In 1804, Josephine, wife of Napoleon I, set out to collect all of the roses of the Western world. Ten years later her gardens at Malmaison contained 250 varieties. Her undertaking sparked great interest in rose gardening and launched the French rose industry. Josephine's collection also inspired botanists and horticulturists to begin classifying roses based on ancestry and appearance.



THE EIGHT CLASSES OF ROSES

All the classes of roses are represented in the National Garden:

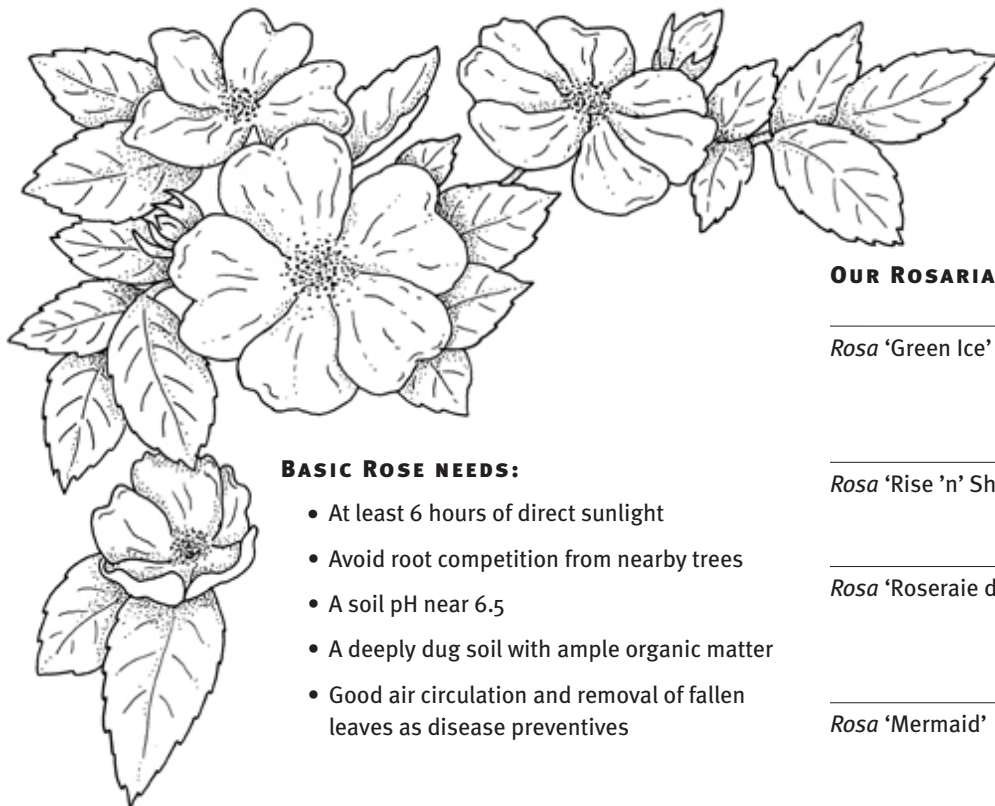
- **Species Roses** are mostly wild roses and include *Rosa rugosa* and *R. canina*, both used extensively for breeding.
- **Climbing Roses** are species and hybrid forms that grow indeterminately and need help to stay attached to walls and trellises.
- **Shrub Roses** are older and newer hardy types that are robust in size.
- **Old Garden Roses** are heirloom types that tend to flower only once a year.
- **Floribundas** are modern hybrid roses with flowers that occur in clusters.
- **Hybrid Teas** are long-stemmed, long-blooming roses created after 1867.
- **Miniature Roses** are small forms of larger plants that offer the full hybrid tea color range.
- **Grandiflora Roses** are very large-flowered, modern roses.

The roses in the National Garden have been selected from all the classes of roses grown today. The garden's purpose is to feature the breadth of rose diversity as well as roses that grow well in the Mid-Atlantic Region with a minimum of chemical treatment. The selection will undoubtedly evolve over time.

CARING FOR ROSES

While roses have a reputation for being difficult to grow and requiring constant attention, it is not necessarily true. Many can thrive with treatment similar to other garden plants. All deserve feeding, pruning, pest vigilance, and water. Consult your local extension agent or a trusted nursery for advice on what does well in your climate.

The U.S. Botanic Garden prefers roses grown on their own roots. If you must plant a grafted variety, keep the rootstock union just above soil level. Plant bare-root roses while they are still dormant; potted roses can go into the ground in spring or fall but will need some shelter from extreme weather.



BASIC ROSE NEEDS:

- At least 6 hours of direct sunlight
- Avoid root competition from nearby trees
- A soil pH near 6.5
- A deeply dug soil with ample organic matter
- Good air circulation and removal of fallen leaves as disease preventives

BASIC PRUNING TIPS:

- Different roses are pruned in different ways. Do a bit of research before you prune. It is important to know if your rose blooms on old wood (from previous years) or new wood (the current year's growth). Hybrid teas, china roses, and shrub roses tend to bloom on new growth and can tolerate harder pruning. Species roses and old European roses tend to bloom on old wood.
- Prune minimally when first established. Thereafter, keep three different years' growth—current, 1-year old, and 2-year old branches. A good rule of thumb is to prune all dead, diseased, crossed, and weak branching.
- Time pruning for winter or early spring when plants are dormant. In cold climates, prune a month before the last killing frost and just after buds begin to swell.
- Snip stems on an angle and just above the leaf buds that face the direction of desired growth (usually away from the interior of the plant). Do the same when deadheading.

OUR ROSARIAN'S PICKS:

<i>Rosa</i> 'Green Ice'	a miniature with clean dissected green leaves and wonderful minty-white flowers
<i>Rosa</i> 'Rise 'n' Shine'	a miniature with soft yellow flowers
<i>Rosa</i> 'Roseraie de l'Hay'	a rugosa (has hairy leaves) with very fragrant, frilly, deep pink flowers
<i>Rosa</i> 'Mermaid'	a climber with a single-petaled, pale yellow flower
<i>Rosa</i> 'Graham Thomas'	a butterscotch-yellow David Austin rose. Austin's English roses combine the best qualities of the old roses—fragrance and form—with the modern rose quality of re-blooming.
<i>Rosa</i> 'Single's Better'	a miniature with a single-petaled red flower and many yellow stamens; clean foliage

